

Avila Examiner

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Sister Olive Louise Turns an Ending Into Another Beginning

by Pat Pruitt

When the Kansas City Council this month proclaimed Sister Olive Louise Dallavis as their "fair lady," Avila students were not surprised. Sister Olive Louise has been Avila College's "fair lady" for more than two decades that she has been their president.

Sister Olive Louise looks back on her career at Avila as being a marvelous opportunity. That career will enter a new phase on October 31, when she retires from the presidency of Avila College. She plans, however, to continue working at Avila in the area of fund raising, an activity she has enjoyed over the years and for which she has considerable expertise. She sees fund raising as an excellent opportunity to meet new people and tell them about the wonderful job the faculty and staff are doing at Avila. "I believe in this college; there is no other college like it," she declares with the noted fervor heard in her voice when she speaks of the college.

Sister Olive Louise's untiring energy has been of invaluable benefit during her years at Avila. When she became acting president of Avila, she was teaching a full load and was also dean of students. She said she was too busy then to have a dream for the future of the school. She had to "do the best NOW with what I was assigned — to seize the opportunity and squeeze it for everything I could." She thinks of Avila as a 24-hour-a-day job but modestly admits other staff members also put in long hours, adding that their dedication gives the college that unique quality.

Another trait that has helped Sister Olive Louise is her frugality. Her efforts at energy conservation are seen throughout the campus in the signs posted to turn off lights when not in use. Her office is sparsely decorated, with the focal point of the room being a large picture window overlooking the campus she loves. Perhaps her frugality is most evident in her refusal to waste time, hers or anyone else's. Time is like a precious commodity to her that must be treasured. When asked what she will miss most about the presidency, she stated, "I won't miss anything; I have never missed anything. There is no time for pining or whining." She believes in moving ahead at all times, never standing still or moving backwards.

Her ability as an administrator is yet another positive trait of Sister Olive Louise. She is known to students as an administrator who, in spite of mounds of paperwork, is well aware of the needs of the students. She explains her management style is one of non-interference. She believes in delegating responsibility to capable people and in giving them all the room possible to make

decisions. She has supported her officers when mistakes were made but is quick to add that she doesn't tolerate the same mistake twice.

Sister Olive Louise is looking forward to the new president's arrival at Avila "as a nice, fresh breeze." She is anxious for some changes and will be supportive of any changes that are initiated. "I am a tremendous follower as well as a good leader," she stressed.

She feels the most pressing problem facing the new administrator will be to build the endowment funds necessary for many students to attend Avila. "William Jewell and Rockhurst have a tradition of 75 to over 100 years of being endowed with wealthy alumni." Avila, on the other hand, is a young, vibrant institution which has only just begun to build endowment. She added that tuition at Avila has remained lower than our "fair endowed friends," while offering the more costly programs. However, she feels confident that the young alumni of Avila will rally to the effort of building endowment funds.

When Sister Olive Louise was asked how she wanted to be remembered at Avila, she paused for a moment, then responded, "I want to be remembered as a friend — a good friend, a happy friend, a loyal friend, and most of all, a continuing friend that you don't change overnight." From a lady who has befriended Avila for over 30 years, that seems an appropriate request.

Sisters in service since 1836

Christians in 1985 are challenged to aid the poor and hungry. Many are called to go forth to foreign lands to bring peace, love, and joy into the lives of the needy. However, this is not a new challenge. The Sisters of St. Joseph accepted this same challenge in 1836 when they left the Old World to become missionaries in the United States.

In its formative years, the Catholic Church in America had to depend greatly upon the generosity of Europeans as American Catholics were few in numbers and their resources were not plentiful.

The first foundation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the New World was in the diocese of St. Louis. Their home was a log cabin located in the village of Carondelet, commonly known as Vide Poche (Empty Pocket) because of the poverty of the residents in this small village on the outskirts of St. Louis. The house faced the Mississippi River with a

passageway dividing the ground space into two rooms, each approximately 15 feet by 24 feet. Overhead was a small attic that was reached by a ladder from the outside. Two crudely constructed sheds completed the building. The furniture in the house consisted of a cot, a table, a few chairs, and two empty mattress covers which the sisters filled with straw. The simple bedding that the sisters had brought with them from France completed the furnishings.



First convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Carondelet, Missouri, 1836

This same log cabin was used as a school, and each student provided his or her own desk by bringing a stool, a box, or a log on which to sit. Being too poor to render cash as tuition, the parents brought provisions or wood as tuition.

The seed planted by those first sisters has grown. Today in that same village of Carondelet there stands the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Nearly three thousand Sisters of St. Joseph accepted the challenge in 1985 to spread peace, love, and joy as did their pioneer sisters in 1936.

REVISED AVILA EXAMINER DEADLINE SCHEDULE**

Copy due dates	Publication dates
November 4 (Mon.)	November 13
November 25 (Mon.)	December 4

** Only the Copy Due Dates have changed.

Copy must be typewritten, double spaced on white paper and in by copy due date in order to be included in the next issue. Black and white photos may be submitted. Send copy to: **Rebecca Wenske, Communications (O'Reilly).**

avila COLLEGE

11901 Wornall Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64145
(816) 942-8400

Women's Health Focus

On November 6 the program "Getting to Know Your Body" will be presented in the Barefoot Room, Marian Centre, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

New Hours For Intensive Weekend Courses (Starting Spring 1986)

The one credit courses will be offered
6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Friday and 9:00 - 5:00
p.m. Saturday.

Video Courses New for Spring 1986

1. Art of Being Human (3)
2. Mechanical Universe (3)
3. The Constitution: Civil Rights and Liberties (3)

SEE THE SPRING 1986 SCHEDULE
FOR DETAILS OR CALL 942-8400,
ext. 278

Avila Seeks To Meet Minority Needs

Are you a minority student at Avila? If so, the Avila College Student Government (ACSG) would like to know if your needs on campus are being met.

Please take time to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. By obtaining this information, ACSG can identify student needs and better serve the Avila community.

Do you consider yourself a minority on campus in one of the following areas? Please indicate all those appropriate: 1) Age, 2) Ethnicity, 3) Physical handicap, 4) Other (specify). Also include if you are male or female.

Do you have ideas or suggestions about what ACSG can do to help you as a minority student? If so, please include these ideas. In addition, if you would like ACSG to contact you further, include your name and address.

Return this sheet to the yellow student government mailbox just outside the Barefoot Room in Marian Centre by November 26.

Scholarship Available

AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP, MO-KAN RAINBOW CHAPTER: The deadline for submitting an application for the spring semester will be Thursday, November 15, 1985. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office (lower Blasco).

Spiritual Activities

Masses for the Feast of All Saints
Wednesday Oct. 31 4:00 p.m.
Thurs. Nov. 1 8:15 a.m. & noon

Penance Services
(tentative schedule)
Thursday Nov. 7 7 p.m.
Thursday Dec. 5 7 p.m.
(All will be celebrated in chapel in Foyle Hall.)

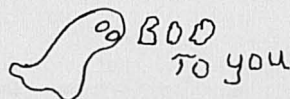
Ski the Slopes at Steamboat

Intramurals is planning a Winter Ski Trip to Steamboat, Colorado for the Avila student body during the fourth week of the five week Christmas vacation (Jan. 3-10). A ski package has been arranged through Trips Unlimited, "The Ski Trip Professionals." The cost of the trip will be only \$325.00 which includes all of the following: 1) transportation via Kincaid Bus Line; 2) five nights lodging; 3) ski lessons if needed; 4) rental for skis, boots, and poles; 5) Steamboat lift tickets; and 6) several social functions.

Skiers will be staying at the Katuk Lodge, directly across the street from the Christie Lifts. All condominiums have a fully equipped kitchen, fireplace, and firewood. The kitchen will enable skiers to keep their food costs down for the trip. Katuk has two outdoor hot tubs, laundry facilities and a party room.

A special deferred-installment plan has been put together to help students in paying for their trip. The \$320 will be broken down into three payments. The first \$100 will be due Nov. 8, the second \$100 due Dec. 11, and the remaining \$125 due Feb. 17.

The trip is being planned for 30 skiers. Trips Unlimited has informed Avila Intramurals that they are scheduling at least 30 other colleges to be up there at the same time. Interest in the Ski Trip has been high and so to ensure your reservation, pick up a registration form from the Office of Student Life, Erin Gibbons, or Phil Bryde.



Wouldn't a Trick or Treat bag with a personalized message from **you** be a fun Halloween gift for a friend or sweetheart? The Avila College Student Government will be taking orders in the Snack Bar Foyer on October 28-31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. These bags can be picked up or we will deliver them on campus all day the 31st. Say BOO!

AVILA PROVIDES "SAFE RIDE" FOR EVERYONE

Beginning this November, the campus will initiate a new program to insure that students, faculty and staff have a "Safe Ride" home from any location in the city. The program, directed by the Dean of Students' Office and co-sponsored by the Avila Student Senate and Residence Hall Government Association, is a pro-active step towards safe driving and positive awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Several colleges and universities have developed similar programs in response to a tragedy on their campuses," said Tom Lease, Dean of Students. "Avila wants the positive impact of the program without waiting for death or destruction to motivate us."

The Student Senate information Hotline (942-9012) will be converted to a direct line to student volunteers on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 10:00 pm to 2:00 am to respond to any student, faculty or staff member requesting a ride. Each volunteer team will be on duty one night every eight weeks. (The minimal time commitment should enhance the recruitment of the 48 volunteers needed to fill the schedule.) Volunteers may stay in their homes or Residence Hall rooms while on call. A call-forwarding system will be used to direct requests to the teams.

Teams must have reliable transportation available on their nights of duty and follow strict policies of confidentiality. No records will be kept of those who use the service and volunteers may not refer to the service with a client in the future. The intention of the program is simply to get people home safely.

People using the service must show a student or staff/faculty identification card at the time they are picked up. Teams of volunteers will always have the prerogative to deny the service to any individual or group who seems beyond a condition which they can handle safely.

The "Safe Ride" program is not in response to any pronounced drinking problems at Avila but is an educational program designed to establish values of safety, caring and volunteerism within the Avila community. If you would like to serve as a volunteer in the program, please contact the Dean of Students' office in Marian Centre for a volunteer contract and information packet.

The Staff

The Avila Examiner is published during the regular college year with exception of college vacation periods by Avila College for the general student body, faculty, administration, and staff.

Opinions expressed in the Avila Examiner do not necessarily represent the official position of Avila College.

The Avila Examiner reserves the right to edit and print all letters, stories, articles, cartoons, games, poems, jokes, and artwork received. All copy received becomes the property of the Avila Examiner. For more information, please contact:

Ray Cumiskey, Coordinator of Communication Studies, O'Reilly or Gary Morgan, Director of Student Development, Marian Centre, Avila College, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64145. Letters to the Editors are always welcome.

Kansas Citians Join Hands To Improve Housing

by Rebecca J. Cisek

If you are used to walking back to your cozy dorm room or to driving home to a warm house, you probably give little thought to those in Kansas City who must literally face the elements inside their dwellings from day to day. This awareness, however, is foremost in the minds of John McMeel of Universal Press Syndicate, lawyer Richard Miller, and various church, community, and business groups in Kansas City who have banded together to provide "Christmas in November" for certain citizens of Kansas City.

Christmas in November is a one day community service project aimed at Kansas Citians who need extra help in winterizing and renovating their homes. The general area requiring this aid is from 5th Street south to 87th Street. All the homes are east of Troost and most are west of Benton Boulevard. Skilled and unskilled volunteers are being recruited from around the area to provide the necessary services. All materials are donated. **Individuals or organizations may call 531-0755 to gain additional information and to pledge their services for the November 16 workday. This would be a worthwhile tradition for Avila students to become involved in.**

The project is the brainchild of co-chairpersons Richard Miller and John McMeel who got the idea from a similar event that takes place each year in Washington, D.C. November, 1984 was the first year for the event in Kansas City when 43 homes were served. This year 102 homes will be renovated, helping approximately 400-500 people.

To become a recipient of the services provided by Christmas in November, four basic criteria must be met: inadequate income to finance own repairs, ownership of one's home, an inability to get the needed work accomplished, and the necessity for the service in terms of improvement of quality of life. After the selection a house captain and an inspector from the Blue Hills Home Corporation go out to the houses and discern exactly what the needs are in terms of the types and amounts of supplies required.

"The houses were uninhabitable," said Richard Miller. Avila alumna Connie Whelan, Assistant Director at St. Francis Xavier Parish, verified this statement by describing the repairs done on two homes last year. With the assistance of fifteen volunteers at one home, the walls were plastered, a hot water was installed, the home was weatherized, and the interior was painted. In another, six panes of broken glass were replaced, wall board replacement was started, two rooms were wired for electricity, and insulation was installed in the kitchen. Poor weatherization is a general problem of the houses being served. "One woman has a puddle in her living room every time it rains," said Ms. Whelan.

The recipients typically receive their sole income from welfare, Social Security, Aid to Dependent Children, or disability. They are also many times elderly or disabled, minorities or single parents. These people find great difficulty just in purchasing their food and paying their bills. There is little or no money left over for "extras" like the luxury of a hot water heater and working plumbing. A family

of two (a mother and child), for example, receives \$219.00 per month in welfare plus a small sum in food stamps. Paying a low income housing rent of \$80.00 per month and all the utilities in a home that is poorly insulated allows little left for improvements. Many of these persons are also unable to pay their heating bills in the winter months. Ms. Whelan cautions those who feel that the persons helped are being given an easy way out. "No one would choose to receive welfare and live this way."

Deep gratitude was expressed by the persons whose homes were renovated last year. Most of the people served, according to Richard Miller, were "overwhelmed" and "shocked" that there were people who would give so freely of themselves without expecting anything in return. Disbelief was also common on the part of those who contributed their efforts. "The volunteers couldn't believe the conditions these people were living under," said Mr. Miller. "One person who had worked with the poor in Appalachia commented that he had seen nothing as bad in Appalachia as in Kansas City."

Southwestern Bell is one of the companies in Kansas City that is responding to the needs of the poor through participation in Christmas in November. The company is providing 20-30 volunteers for the two houses it is sponsoring. According to Denise Panyik-Dale, Southwestern Bell is very much "into corporate volunteerism" and has two community relations teams that will be involved in the event. Over 30 other companies, corporations, and institutions are also pledging their services.

Why are so many individuals and organizations becoming involved? Harry Langdon, Director of Campus Ministry at Rockhurst College (also involved in the project), says that people feel the responsibility to give of their gifts to those not as fortunate as they are. Area businesses desire to return to the community part of what they take from it.

Sometimes, however, "bettering the community" works against those with inadequate finances. Reporter Paul Wenske, in an article that draws parallels between the housing problems in Boston and Kansas City (Kansas City Times, September 26, 1985, pages A-1 and A-14), described how low-income housing is being redeveloped into expensive apartments, townhouses, and condominiums. "The problem of the homeless has exploded this year as Boston experiences the nation's fastest rise in housing costs—an average 37 percent leap—and officials now are trying to count all the displaced people." Kansas City's Ad Hoc Committee on Shelter for the Homeless reports that 600 people here have lost or are losing their homes to redevelopment and that the city is short about 16,000 low-income homes.

According to Mr. Wenske's article, Downtown Kansas City is being redeveloped to draw affluent people to live there. Quality Hill, Union Hill, and the areas near the West Bottoms and around the Plaza are some of the targets of developers. This is not only leaving fewer places for the low-income persons to

live but also causing higher rents for the small amount of low-income homes left.

With homeless problems increasing in major cities, it is comforting to see the work of groups like Christmas in November in Kansas City. Yet, even this effort is just a start. The actions of many people are required to create the problems of the homeless and the poor; the concerted efforts of even more people are required to find solutions to the problems.

Chaplains Corner

by Fr. Mike Zahorchak

We have just experienced Homecoming as a very "classy" affair, beginning with the Golf Classic at Leawood South C.C. and continuing through with the various gatherings of alumni and students. All was done with style and polish, in other words, with class.

Events like these constitute for us the happy memories of Avila that will bring us back for future homecomings just as they attracted all the alumni who returned this year.

Homecoming is a way of getting in touch with our roots, of paying homage to a college that has not only left its mark on past students but is continually influencing present students.

These musings have brought to mind two of the basic teachings of existentialism, a philosophical outlook which claims that we are always in a relationship and that we ALONE determine the outcome of these relationships.

"Relationships" means that people, places and things affect us and we, in turn, affect them. The most important aspect is that WE, and only we, will determine whether that relationship, the affect, will be happy or miserable.

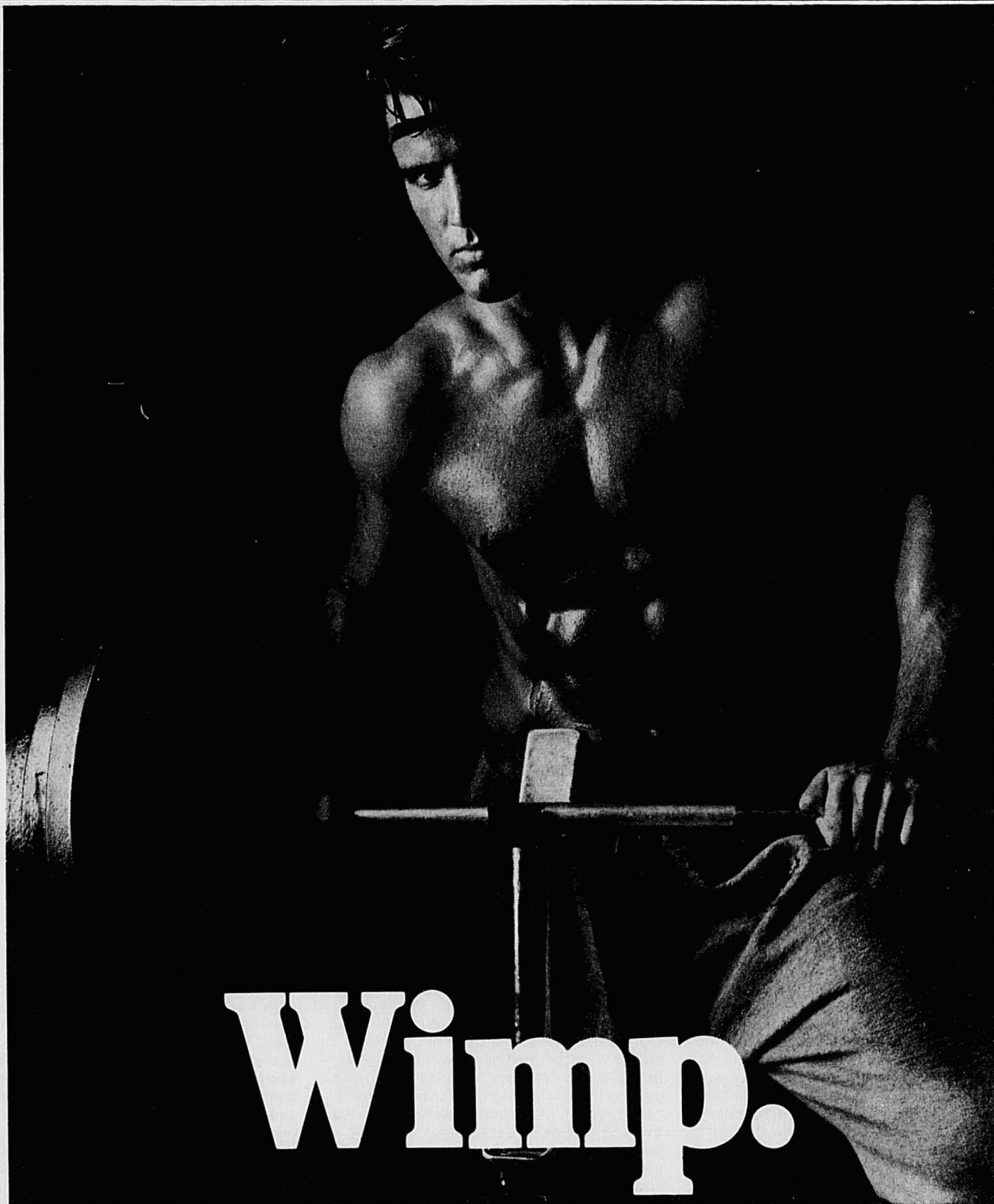
Applying these principles to us and Avila, we must realize that Avila is much more than a place. It is PEOPLE and EVENTS, a CATALYST that tries to put us in touch with ourselves.

In addition, Avila is also OPPORTUNITIES to get in touch, and stay in touch, with a Higher Power which we call God.

The most pertinent part of our relationship with Avila, however, is that we ourselves determine that mutual kind of affect that takes place here. Only we can engineer the outcome of all the influence we receive here and which we, in turn, generate. If we are happy, then it is because we have interacted openly and favorably with the multi-faceted environment of our campus.

If we aren't happy, then there must be some obstacles that influence us in forming a negative attitude. Even negative occurrences, however, can be turned to good advantage. Like someone once said, "If life deals you lemons, make lemonade." Thus, even in bad circumstances, it's still a matter of US determining our attitudes.

It seems to be quite evident that we are now in the process of deciding whether or not we will be alumni of Avila who will return in years to come to get in touch with our roots. We are now in the process of creating not only the memories that we will have of Avila but also are in the process of creating our futures.



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